



**City of Scottsdale
Library Board
Regular Meeting Minutes**
Wednesday, June 21, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Arabian Library, Meeting Room
10215 E. McDowell Mountain Ranch Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

PRESENT: Chair Janet Smigielski, Vice Chair Freda Hartman, Board Members, Sam Campana, Natalee Esposito, Shiela Reyman and Enid Seiden

STAFF: Mandy Carrico, Acting Library Director; Melissa Orr, Senior Library Manager

GUESTS: Emily Hinchman, Chair of the Human Relations Commission

Call to Order

Chair Smigielski called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present as listed above.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Minutes – May 17, 2023

Chair Smigielski made a wording change on page 2 to, "...after the election of Board officers.

BOARD MEMBER REYMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 17, 2023, LIBRARY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. BOARD MEMBER ESPOSITO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR SMIGIELSKI, VICE CHAIR HARTMAN AND BOARD MEMBERS CAMPANA, ESPOSITO, REYMAN AND SEIDEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Patron Comment Report

Mandy Carrico, Acting Library Director, stated that there was much praise included the comments. There was also a lot of discussion regarding 50 cent paperbacks. There are ongoing issues with the collection at Mustang.

2. Human Relations Commission presentation

Emily Hinchman, Chair of the Human Relations Commission, provided an historical overview of the Human Relations Commission. The Commission advocates and promotes all dimensions of diversity and acts as an advisory body to the Mayor, City Council and staff. It makes recommendations to City Council on ways to encourage mutual respect and understanding, while discouraging prejudice and discrimination and also makes recommendations for special events. Commission members meet with the Police Department quarterly to become informed on hate and bias-related crimes. The Commission collaborates with the City's Diversity Advisory Committee (DC) to carry out initiatives. Community engagement includes various heritage months. Partnerships exist with organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, One Community, Experience Scottsdale and SUSD. All regional Human Relation Commissions meet on an annual basis. A sampling of engagement materials was reviewed.

The Commission is not requesting assistance from the Library to plan and assist with the proposed town halls, however they are seeking the Library as partners for its reach potential. A list of topics was provided. Board Member Seiden commented on the current relevance of the topics and added that she would redo many of the topics, as they remain relevant today. Chair Smigielski stated that room bookings will have to be done through the library director and staff. Ms. Hinchman stated that at this time, they are merely seeking the support of the Library Board.

Melissa Orr, Senior Library Manager, stated that she is a member of the DAC and was in attendance at the Juneteenth and other events. The library wishes to adopt this type of programming, to begin in January, 2024. They must first finish the calendar of events through December. When the Library opened the Scottsdale Heritage Connection several years ago, they had a modified version of a human library. This allows a person to "check out" an individual with particular experience, knowledge or education. This same process could occur with interviews of marginalized individuals.

Vice Chair Hartman noted that last year, the Library went through a strategic planning process to develop a new strategic plan for the future. Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) was one of the goals.

Chair Smigielski suggested that this item be placed back on the agenda for September with an action item to determine if the Library Board would like to officially support the Human Relations Commission in this endeavor.

3. Library Board orientation packet

Chair Smigielski welcomed comments on the packet. Board Member Seiden said she appreciated the personal meeting that included much helpful background information. Chair Smigielski stated that the current Library Board traditionally meets with new members for welcome and a question and answer session.

She made suggestions for additions to the packet, including:

- Two years of annual reports
- Topic calendar
- Resolution 17445
- Resolution 12408 that established the creation of the Library Special Fund Cost Center

There was consensus to add the suggested items. Vice Chair Hartman suggested an approach whereby the packet is a living document, where items are agreed upon for inclusion in the packet as they are identified. Chair Smigielski suggested revisiting the packet for revisions once a year.

BOARD MEMBER ESPOSITO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE ORIENTATION PACKET WITH ADDITIONS SUGGESTED BY CHAIR SMIGIELSKI AND TO SCHEDULE AN ANNUAL REVIEW. BOARD MEMBER ESPOSITO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR SMIGIELSKI, VICE CHAIR HARTMAN AND BOARD MEMBERS CAMPANA, ESPOSITO, REYMAN AND SEIDEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. Old Business

a. Community Outreach

Vice Chair Hartman stated that this issue came up on the retreat agenda. It was discussed that there are a number of activities to connect the Scottsdale public libraries with their communities, either through partnership or collaborations. She distributed a list of current partnering and collaboration efforts with other community groups, some of which include:

- Family Promise: Helping families facing homelessness
- SciStarter: Volunteering with science-related projects
- Mapping stream system
- Family Place Libraries
- Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center (SAARC)
- First Things First
- Service Core of Retired Executives (SCORE)
- Phoenix Conservatory of Music
- McDowell Sonoran Conservancy
- Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts
- Boys and Girls Club

Vice Chair Hartman invited input on the interests of the Board for pursuing these efforts and how the Board can support Scottsdale Public Libraries in their work on these partnerships and collaborations. Ms. Orr stated that some of the programs are just beginning. Family Promise is brand-new, with a recent \$14,000 grant toward these efforts. Some of the items allow volunteer opportunities for Board members. Vice Chair Hartman noted that Board Members are invited to do as little or as much volunteering as they wish to. Board Member Reyman commented that prior to COVID, she was very involved in attending events and Family Fun Days. It can be frustrating for Ms. Orr to send out invitations to events and have no one show. Board Member Esposito added that Board Members are also free to attend events aside from their role on the Board.

Board Member Campana asked whether there is a rental fee and policy for events at library locations. Ms. Orr stated that there is no charge for organizations that the Library wishes to partner with to offer programs. They work together to determine available dates and best library locations for the event. They do not necessarily have to be a nonprofit or a government organization, however there can be no cost to the public to attend.

Board Member Campana brought up several examples of political and other controversial-type organizations and asked whether there are policies that govern approval of their events.

Ms. Carrico stated that when considering partnerships, the Library is very intentional about whether the event would be a resource or program need for the community. Rooms are available for rent to other organizations with whom the library does not have a partnership. Rentals are handled through the City. Spaces are not rented to organizations and events that do not demonstrate inclusivity, which is one to the primary requirements. City policy prohibits hateful language or anything that poses a danger to a marginalized group, or any other group.

Chair Smigielski suggested having a presentation by the City regarding the library rental space policies as a future agenda item.

Vice Chair Hartman commented that there are a variety of ways for Board Members to engage.

5. Director's Report

Ms. Carrico provided the Director's Report highlighting the following:

- Hold It lockers have been delivered to Granite Reef Senior Center, have been activated and are in the final testing phase; a tentative launch party was scheduled for July 13th, however this has been revised to July 27th
- The final budget was adopted on June 13th, 2023 with no changes
- The Library budget included a \$50,000 increase to the General Fund for materials
- A funding decision package of \$206,890 was approved to upgrade the network infrastructure at Civic Center and Mustang
- A funding decision package of \$20,000 was approved to install people counters at Mustang and Civic Center. Funding has been approved for ongoing funding for a municipal security officer dedicated to Civic Center and Mustang
- LAP funding has been received at \$463,788
- New youth room entrance is open
- Reciprocal borrowing is still under implementation
- Press Reader was added to USA Today in mid-June
- New program, 1,000 books for Kindergarten with included incentives and prizes for readers
- Story Walk will take place late summer at Rio Montana
- Books to Go is planned for Rio Montana
- Pony Express Appaloosa stats: 5,859 visits, 2,487 check-ins, 2876 card holders, circulation of 7,265 items, 11 mentions in comment cards
- Summer Reading update as of June 18, 2023: 5090 people registered and 394 completions
- Upcoming Library Policies: Library Cards (DEIB focus); Library Cards for Groups (new)
- Home Town Happy Hour scheduled for June 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
- Family Read Aloud Fun on July 12th, 2023 at Mustang Library at 10:30 a.m.

Ms. Carrico announced that she will be leaving the City of Scottsdale and joining the City of Tolleson as its library director. Her last day at Scottsdale will be July 7th, 2023.

6. Board Members' Reports

Board Members expressed appreciation for Ms. Carrico's work with the City and the Board. She was presented with a plaque for her dedication and service.

Vice Chair Hartman gave a reminder of Friends' efforts to gain new members. Expired memberships are welcome to be renewed. In terms of fundraising, Birdies for Charity raised \$1,869.87. The fundraiser at Someburros at the Promenade raised \$240. After much discussion and deliberation, there is now a slate of new officers for the Friends Group Board for the coming year. New officers are Amanda Whitmer (president), Ashley Francis (Vice President) Carol Damaso (Treasurer) and Joanne Mullins (Secretary). The Friends had a retreat and determined goals for the next year, including: Increase membership to 150 members; raise \$50,000 in new funding; recruit three board members; host large-scale fundraiser; generate 3,000 unique website visitors, which would be a 33 percent increase over 2022.

Board Member Seiden shared a personal story about tutoring a kindergartener last year. He and his sisters and mother had never used a library. At the end of the tutoring session, she gave them a complete tour of the Mustang children's section. His mother visited the library this week and there is a picture of him with a large number of books he is borrowing.

7. Identification of Future Agenda Items and Future Meeting

- Presentation on meeting room policy from the City
- Calendar discussion
- Strategic future of Rio Montana
- Presentation on processes and policies
- Next regular meeting: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 Arabian Library

8. Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER REYMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:50 P.M. BOARD MEMBER CAMPANA SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR SMIGIELSKI, VICE CHAIR HARTMAN AND BOARD MEMBERS CAMPANA, ESPOSITO, REYMAN AND SEIDEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

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